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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/685,042	10/10/2000	Shuichi Kobayashi	35.G2657	3110

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NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

CHANG, AUDREY Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2872

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/685,042	KOBAYASHI, SHUICHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Audrey Y. Chang	2872	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 17, 19 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 17, 19 and 22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 13, 2005 has been entered.
2. This Office Action is also in response to applicant's amendment filed on June 30, 2005, which has been entered into the file.
3. By this amendment, the applicant has amended claims 1 and 4.
4. Claims 1, 4, 17, 19 and 22 remain pending in this application.

Specification

5. The **amendment filed July 13, 2005** is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the **original disclosure** is as follows: **claim 1 has been amended** to include the phrase "said layered diffraction optical element further comprises a *positive meniscus lens* and a *positive biconvex lens* with said first diffraction part being disposed on the said positive meniscus lens and said second diffraction part being disposed on said positive biconvex lens". The specification *fails* to provide **explicitly teachings or identification** of the lens elements being of the claimed "positive meniscus lens" and "positive biconvex lens". Figure 6B of the instant application, seems to provide support for the lens element "306" to have a *positive meniscus lens* (305a), (the radius of curvature of the lens surface of lens element 305a, closest to the iris stop seems to be larger than the radius of curvature of the lens surface closest to the object side, which contributes to

Art Unit: 2872

positive power) and a *positive biconvex lens* (305b), however *no explicit teachings* can be found in the specification.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter or amend the specification in the reply to this Office Action.

Response to Amendment

6. The amendment filed on **July 13, 2005** is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132(a) states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: **claim 4 has been amended** to include the phrase “said imaging optical system further comprises a negative meniscus lens element disposed in front of said iris stop having a concave surface facing said iris stop...”. The specification *fails* to provide **explicitly teachings** of the lens element being of the claimed “negative meniscus lens”. Figure 6A of the instant application, does not seem to give support for the “negative meniscus lens” as claimed by the amended claim 4. The lens element shown in Figure 6A that is closest to the iris stop seems to be a plano-concave lens, or biconcave lens. Even if it is a meniscus lens, the “negative power” aspect is not explicitly clear. The applicant needs to provide *lens data* to prove it to be “negative meniscus lens”.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Art Unit: 2872

8. **Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph**, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The reasons for rejection based on the newly added features are set forth in the paragraph above.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 1, 17, 19 and 22 are allowed, **with the condition** that the applicant amends the specification to resolve the “new matters” objection to the specification set forth above.

10. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: of the prior art references considered, none has disclosed an *imaging optical system* that is comprised of an *iris stop* and a *layered diffraction optical member* provided in front of the iris stop, wherein the layered diffraction optical member includes a *first diffraction part of negative power* and a *second diffraction part of positive power*, wherein the first and second diffraction part each comprises a diffraction grating made of material of *different dispersion characteristics* and the *layered diffraction optical member* further comprises a *positive meniscus lens* and a *positive biconvex lens* with first diffraction part being *disposed* on the positive meniscus lens and the second diffraction part being *disposed* on the positive biconvex lens, as explicitly set forth in the claims.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4, 17, 19 and 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

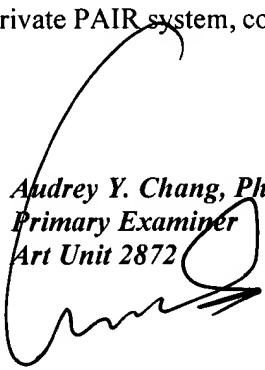
Art Unit: 2872

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Audrey Y. Chang whose telephone number is 571-272-2309. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30), alternative Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Audrey Y. Chang, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2872



A. Chang, Ph.D.